

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Original): A transparent article comprising

a substrate;

an optical coating comprising one or more layers on the substrate, where the one or more layers include furthest from the substrate a homogeneous outermost layer comprising silicon nitride; and

a protective coating on the outermost layer, wherein

the protective coating consists of

a scratch propagation blocker layer on the outermost layer, and

a layer consisting essentially of carbon on the scratch propagation blocker

layer; and

the scratch propagation blocker layer is a homogeneous layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of

Ti, Si, Zn, Sn, In, Zr, Al, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, Ta and W;

oxides of Ti, Si, Zn, Sn, In, Zr, Al, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, Ta and W;

nitrides of Ti, Si, Zn, Sn, In, Zr, Al, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, Ta and W; and

mixtures thereof.

Claim 36 (Original): The transparent article according to Claim 35, wherein the layer consisting essentially of carbon is doped with nitrogen.

Claim 37 (Original): The transparent article according to Claim 35, wherein the layer consisting essentially of carbon consists of carbon and unavoidable impurities.

Claim 38 (Original): The transparent article according to Claim 35, wherein the carbon in the layer consisting essentially of carbon comprises at least one form of carbon selected from the group consisting of diamond-like carbon and graphite.

Claim 39 (Original): A transparent article comprising

- a substrate;
- an optical coating comprising one or more layers on the substrate, where the one or more layers include furthest from the substrate a homogeneous outermost layer comprising silicon nitride; and
- a protective coating on the outermost layer, wherein
 - the protective coating consists of a scratch propagation blocker layer on the outermost layer; and
 - the scratch propagation blocker layer is a homogeneous layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of
 - Ti, Si, Zn, Sn, In, Zr, Al, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, Ta and W;
 - oxides of Ti, Si, Zn, Sn, In, Zr, Al, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, Ta and W;
 - nitrides of Ti, Si, Zn, Sn, In, Zr, Al, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, Ta and W; and
 - mixtures thereof.

Claim 40 (Original): The transparent article according to Claim 39, wherein the optical coating is a tempered coating.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment cancels Claims 1-34. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 35-40 will be pending in this application. Claims 35 and 39 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and early examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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